

**UPPER MISSOURI RIVER RESERVOIR
FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE
MONTANA WILD, HELENA
9:00 AM AUGUST 6, 2018
DRAFT SUMMARY NOTES**

Facilitator: Deb O'Neill

Invited Participants: **Bart Bratlein** (Capital Sports), David Brooks (TU), Bob Gilbert (WU), **Troy Humphrey** (FWP), **Eric Roberts** (FWP), Josh Steinmetz (local outfitter), **Adam Strainer** (FWP), **Richard Stuker** (FWP Commission), **Mark Traxler** (Helena Hunters and Anglers), and Pat Volkmar (kid's fishing and education). Names in **bold** attended the meeting.

Other Attendees: Jerry Butcher and Dale Boespflug

Meeting Goal: Participants will have a better understanding of concerns about and support for the proposed changes in the Upper Missouri River Reservoir Management Plan.

Meeting Objectives:

- 1) FWP will share a summary of the public meetings held since this group last met.
- 2) Participants will share what they have learned from their constituents/members regarding the five changes in the plan, as well as what they have heard regarding the rest of the plan.
- 3) Participants will engage in a thorough discussion regarding these insights.

Topic	Desired Outcome	Lead
Introduction	Welcome. Understand what the plan for the day is and what is expected of the participants.	Deb, Adam
Summary of Public Meetings	Understand what was heard at these meetings.	Adam
Open Discussion on Comments	A better understanding of stakeholder comments on the proposed changes.	Deb, All
Next Steps	Consider examples of changes to draft management plan. Understand the timeline that FWP must operate under.	Adam
Review and Close	Understand action items and next steps.	Deb

FWP staff welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming to the second scoping group meeting.

Adam Strainer gave a brief summary of what FWP heard at each of the 5 public meetings held since the last scoping group meeting. No one attended the Butte public meeting, and one scoping group member was the only attendee in Bozeman. There are no summaries for these meetings.

- Great Falls (13 attendees):
 - Accepted the pike management change
 - Attendees sought understanding of the rainbow stocking relationship to FWP's budget cuts
 - Little feedback on the Holter walleye tournament
 - PSD was accepted
 - Observed there were too many small walleye
- Helena (15 attendees):
 - Consider mandatory harvest of pike
 - Attendees sought understanding of the rainbow stocking relationship to FWP's budget cuts
 - There was no feedback on the Holter walleye tournament
 - Observed there were too many small walleye
 - Wanted FWP to look at forage
- Townsend (1 attendee):
 - Appreciated FWP's evaluation of the current plan
 - Wants to see more big fish

After the public meeting summaries, we asked scoping group participants to share what they have heard regarding the five proposed changes and other comments on the draft UMRRFMP.

1. CANYON FERRY RESERVOIR PERCH GOALS

- Overall support for the proposed changes

2. PIKE MANAGEMENT

- Overall support for the proposed changes. There were no concerns.

3. RAINBOW TROUT MANAGEMENT

- This change received the most feedback. Most people were wanting to understand how budget cuts impacted stocking rainbows.
- There needs to be more public education on this issue.

4. HOLTER LAKE WALLEYE TOURNAMENT

- Some members heard no strong feelings either way; mostly received an apathetic response or no opinion.
- Other members heard the following:
 - The timing of the current proposal is not good
 - Some were not aware of the current rule prohibiting tournaments because a slot limit was in place.

- One member heard comments that were half for a tournament and half against a tournament.
- One commenter was pro-tournament (he was the applicant).

5. CANYON FERRY RESERVOIR WALLEYE SIZE CRITERIA (PROPORTIONAL STOCKING DENSITY)

- There was broad support for the proposed change.

6. OTHER UMRRFMP COMMENTS?

- Too many small walleye.
- Consider surveys for forage minnows.
- Concern over adaptivity of plan.
 - Can the plan respond quickly enough?
- FWP needs to be proactive with perch management on Holter.
- Consider a spring closure or catch-release only for rainbow in the river section.
 - This addresses social issues.
- Habitat needs should be addressed better.
 - Christmas trees
 - WMA

NEXT STEPS AND ACTION ITEMS:

FWP will develop a fact sheet that will include information on rainbow trout stocking, PSD (what it is and that FWP is still managing for quality), and forage (appendix in UMRRFMP will be updated as well).

If scoping group members have ideas on what items should be included on a fact sheet, please send them to Adam.

Timeline Outlook

Milestone	Committee Meeting Timing	Dates
Finalize Draft Plan based on public scoping		Late Sept.
Present Draft Plan to Commission		Oct. 17 (Helena)
Commission Public Comment Period		Mid Oct. - Mid Nov.
	Scoping Committee Meeting #3 (if nec.)	Mid/Late Nov.
Address/Incorporate Public Comment into Final Draft Plan		Late Nov.
Plan up for final approval by Commission		Dec. 7

FWP will verify October commission meeting location and send it out to the scoping group members.